

PANTHERS AND THINGS

Dear Editor:

As I read the many panther articles in The Times, I am reminded to tell my experience of fifty-two years ago, when I too almost saw a panther.

One of my cousins, W. H. Collins, who now lives near Durbin, and myself hunted coons together. We were armed with an old army pistol. When the dogs would bark, one of us would buckle the old weapon around us and go up the tree. If we could seat all we would bring the coons down.

We lived at Heslerman. There was a panther which stayed on Laurel Run on the east side of Greenbrier River, right opposite Heslerman. We had a cornfield on that side of the river, and one night my cousin and I went over there coon hunting. We went around the field, but did not strike anything until we came to the place where we entered the field.

There the dogs struck track, ran about 400 yards on a hemlock bank, and began barking up a birch tree on steep ground.

The night was very dark, so I buckled on the old weapon and up the tree I went as far as I could get. I did not see so I thought I would take it out. When I tried to shake the tree would just swing.

I said to my cousin there is something on this tree larger than a coon. I cut a large sprout off of the tree, and began thrashing in the top of the tree. The dogs were watching it to fall. It jumped out down hill among the laurels. It made a powerful racket. Away went the dogs about two hundred yards and again, but the dogs did not catch them on the track, and it ran a short distance and treed again. It did always jump out before we got to the dogs. After it had treed several times it let some awful yells you ever heard. It was not excited and left there as quickly as possible. So I believe all that keeps me from seeing a panther is that it was too dark.

C. P. Collins.

Bard, Florida.

UNCLE JOHNNY

HENRY M. SMITH

Henry M. Smith was born in Greenbrier county Sept. 13, 1885 and departed this life Oct. 27, 1927 at the age of 42. Mr. Smith was an employee of the C & O R R for many years and had charge of the station at Beard, W. Va., during the time that the lumber operations were going on at Denmar and Spies Run which made the office a very important one. He was very efficient and steady in his work and his close application to the duties of his office for so many years, no doubt brought on the ill health which finally resulted in his death at so early an age.

In the year Dec. 24, 1907, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Ethline Liversay of Frankford, W. Va and they set up housekeeping at Beard which was their only home until ill health forced him to give up work. There they made many friends and spent many happy years. During all these years it was my privilege and pride to know them and to rejoice with them in the happiness and prosperity which was theirs.

On Nov. 20, 1921 Mr. Smith united with the Presbyterian church upon profession of faith and his pastor and all the members of the church were greatly encouraged to know that one who had always stood so well in the community and was so capable, had thrown his whole influence and example upon the side of the Kingdom of Christ. The grief and sorrow of all his friends can only be imagined when they learned that an insidious disease had attacked him and that he had to give up his position and removed to Frankford where for all these years he had lingered in gradual decline. The end came as a longed for release from a crushing burden. Eternity alone can reveal to us why one who was so well fitted to serve the Kingdom of Christ should be thus taken before he lived out half his days. But God in his infinite wisdom willed it so and we can only say, "It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good."

There remain to bear the burden this grief, his wife and their children Lucille, Starville, Henry, Louise, Eva, and Elena, and two sisters Mrs. John Maura of Williamsburg, Mrs. S. R. Noel and one brother Harper Smith of Marlinton.

BUSINESS MEN

On last Friday night a mass meeting of the business men of the community was held in the dining room of the Marlinton Sewell Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the report of S. B. Wallace, who has just returned from New York, where he had met with the directors of the United States Leather Company in reference to the matter of rebuilding their large plant at Marlinton.

While Mr. Wallace could not say that the Marlinton Tannery would be rebuilt, he did say the matter was still under consideration and definite decision had been postponed until Tuesday.

The men present decided to organize a Business Mens' Cooperative Association of Marlinton. This was a wise move. If the tannery is rebuilt we will have an organization to cooperate with the big industry of our community. If the worst comes we will have an organization through which to work in seeking other industries.

S. B. Wallace was elected president, and F. M. Sydnor, secretary. A committee appointed for to draft and submit a constitution and bylaws.

The following resolution was passed and signed by the business men of the town and mailed to the United States Leather Company.:

"Be it resolved by the Business Men's Co-operative Association of Marlinton, that it will at all times endeavor to induce industries to locate in our town, and that this Association will insist that all industries which shall locate in Marlinton, shall be treated fairly, and especially as to the matters of taxation, and necessary sewerage, and we assure the Union Tanning Company that if it shall rebuild its plant in our town that it will have at all times our most loyal support."

Before adjourning all the members of the Association by a standing vote expressed their appreciation of Mr. Wallace and his well directed public spirited endeavors for the upbuilding of the county and community.

CIRCULAR ON SHEEP RAISING

A 52 page circular giving a comprehensive discussion on everything from the status of the sheep industry in this state to the diseases of

THE POCOHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1927

What was Glade Hill has troubled the thinkers of this county for many years. It is a ridge on the bottom of Galsford's Creek near Donmore in sight of the State Highway. It is about a half mile long and about seventy feet high and looked at from a distance appears to be a grassy railway embankment of gigantic proportions. But examined more closely it assumes the shape of an overturned boat shaped like a log canoe, broad in the center and running to a peak at both ends. It is covered with a carpet of fine blue grass sod without a weed to mar the smoothness of its coat. It is surrounded by rich farm bottom land, some of the best producing land in the county. On the east side rises the Allegheny mountain on the other side is a limestone hill. Glade Hill is such a symmetrical mound that many have thought it to be the work of man, but the presence on its top of round creek pebbles has stood in the way of that theory.

Here is another guess at the origin of Glade Hill, on J. N. Wilsong's farm in Green Bank district. It is the work of a glacier in the ice age. Such hills are classified in the geologies as eskers, which comes from the Irish word, *easra*, meaning a ridge.

In the northern states, especially in Maine they are more common than this far south and they have a great development in Scandinavia where they run for many miles. In this country it was warm for many

years and the people were more advanced than the spoken, so universal education to come impatient of men and prefer something or leave alone, like reading and writing. And all men of any understanding are geologists. A man to say that he is not about geology is not about and it is not true their way about and the formation of the they live and how to from the soil and the geology but practical geologists are proud of not knowing be like the soldier who from the camp during and exhibited an honor I think he showed it to was a member of the board for the soldiers, deal to do with them stated that he had not for further service on account of infirmity. I told him paper and keep it care account to show it to anybody asked for his him to me.

Men know the different land whereon you can switch large enough to Tanning of the Shrew, where great trees grow are ready to furnish coalitions for the multitude.

Probably the reason the geography of the book is unpopular is the strange and unfamiliar names like paleozoic, mesozoic, Those are names for middle life, and modern after you get the hang of language it becomes easier.

All men know that rich land, that a to build a chimney

at both ends. It is covered with a carpet of fine blue grass sod without a weed to mar the smoothness of its coat. It is surrounded by rich farm bottom land, some of the best producing land in the county. On the east side rises the Allegheny mountain on the other side is a limestone hill. Glade Hill is such a symmetrical mound that many have thought it to be the work of man, but the presence on its top of round creek pebbles has stood in the way of that theory.

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In the northern states, especially in Maine they are more common than this far south and they have a great development in Scandinavia where they run for many miles. In this country it was warm for many years and then it got cold. The Ice Age set in. After a period when the whole world had been warm and rainy, it began to get cold, and all the animal land life in the northern parts of creation perished or fled to the south. Many are supposed to have crowded into caves and perished there. Many of the species disappeared entirely, especially the huge overgrown animals which could not withstand the cold winds on their great bulks and which could not outrun the approach of the first winter, and which had no place to shelter.

Up to that time the great rainfalls and the floods as well as the winds and the suns had been shaping the mounds and the land into accepted form. A mountain

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Up to that time the great rainfalls and the floods as well as the winds and the suns had been shaping the mountains and the land into accepted form. A mountain newly upheaved from the sea is a very crude affair. It takes the skilled hand of nature to smooth it into shape and trim it with leaves and flowers. In the years there had been laid down the big glade that was in time to be rich farms. It was in about the same shape that it is now, only it was about seventy feet higher, that is all of it was on the level with the top of the esker. It had been formed by the wash from the east, nobody knows how many miles away. Many of the stones had rolled on the bottom of the turbulent streams until they were round as balls. The surface of the bottom or glade was covered with them. Then the ice shut down on the world and some of the perpetual ice that the ineffectual summers could not melt, extended as far south and farther than Pocahontas county. Anyway there is no question but that the big glade on Galford creek, a branch of Stillington creek

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It endured for a season, a geological season, and presently the sun spot or whatever it was that caused the long cold spell got better and the ice began to melt and the streams came to life under the ice and commenced to wear away the surface and deliver the mud to the sea and this went on for a long time under the ice before the ice caps disappeared.

At Glade Hill, the bottom land was so broad that there was room for two streams to begin the cutting so one started on the west side of the level land and the other on the east side and it is the work of these streams ever widening and turning and changing their courses that account for the fine level fields on either side of the esker. For some reason or other there was a long winding strip of land on which the ice still held and as long as the freeze remained in that strip the

dolph county had unt River coal, the word silence, and no one s what that will mean After all is said limestone that mean health and well being than any thing else it has even added a cubit of men.

I have been seeing a with new eyes of tracing the cause of the I believe that it is that I learned to drive good ford, and I have drive to a distant again without an o gan to study the history as shown by the From my earliest recs been an archaeologist who studies the art an ancient people by the and relics, or in other hunter and collector of heads and the like.

But historical geology beaten. A member of the West Virginia Survey and gave me thereby placed me obligations to him. Geology is so beneficial to one's honorable to oneself.

Hence this series of regret is that I do not eyesight of thirty years other day I was peerin along the roadside farmer came riding his usual horse. He said you doing? Hunting yourself with?" I was ready for him, but he came to me and the

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The county road runs between the two, the gap being taken advantage of in the neighborhood road. The round creek bed stones on top of the ridge were not carried there from a lower level. They came from some

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There is no doubt grow in every part the trees are conquer allowed to shine. And we are inclined because the Big River on the west side of the ridge is the favored does not account farms and pastures of the river and migration has shown me the east side of the complement of limestone.

Years ago Wesley the wisest man I know that the reason stopped with him that it was the result of that territory.

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Here are some of the names given to heaps and deposits made by the ice in the ice age:

Moraines. Irregular ridges, when terminal, transverse to the ice flow.

Drumlins, ovate hills, elongate, parallel to ice flow.

Kames, round to ovate hills grouped transverse to glacier.

Eskers, winding, elongate, parallel to ice flow.

Firral aprons, outwash plains deposited in alluvium.

A small amount of talus slopes are to be seen in the same valley below the hill and on the

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T. S. McNeil

H. H. E.

Page 10

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Frontal aprons, outwash plains beyond morainal deposits.

A most magnificent set of kames are to be seen in the same valley to the south of Glade Hill and on the other side of Sillingtons Creek in the long valley that joins with an imperceptible divide the country of the valley drained by Sillingtons Creek and Knapps Creek.

I have given you all a lot of geology lately and I have no apology to make strictly speaking, any further than is due for the presentation of thoughts in general to an unwilling world. The modern scheme of civilization demands it however, and it more and more tends to the printed word rath-

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ICE, EDITOR.

JANUARY 3, 1927

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er than the spoken, for in a day of universal education the people become impatient of much speaking and prefer something they can drink or leave alone, like reading.

And all men of any intelligence or understanding are geologists. For a man to say that he knows nothing about geology is nothing to boast about and it is not true. They know their way about and they know about the formation of the land on which they live and how to wrest a living from the soil and that is not only geology but practical geology. To be proud of not knowing geology would be like the soldier who came back from the camp during the late war, and exhibited an honorable discharge I think he showed it to me first for I was a member of the legal advisory board for the soldiers, and had a good deal to do with them. The paper stated that he had not been accepted for further service on the grounds of imbecility. I told him to guard that paper and keep it carefully but on no account to show it to anybody. If anybody asked for his papers to refer him to me.

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All men know that limestone en-
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eer in the Appalachian mountains
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I do not think it at all probable that
any man ever made a break like that.
And as to that part of geology that

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And as to that part of geology that has to do with fossils, concerning which I am trying to find out about, as eagerly I once followed a deer track, I reminded a friend the other day that more men make a living out of fossils, than out of any other branch of industry, in West Virginia and this is eminently true, when you remember that coal is a fossil.

We have a lot of coal in Pocahontas county but owing to the great abundance of this source of light, heat, and power, in more favored sections of West Virginia, it is not likely that we will see its developed very soon. I understand that when a geologist of great renown announced that Randolph County had untold tons of New Haven coal the word was received with some interest, but the same seemed to indicate that it was not good for anything.

After a short stay at home, it became evident that the condition was progressing rapidly. The following day he was admitted to the hospital.

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silence, and no one seemed to realize
what that will mean to that county.

After all is said and done, It is
limestone that means more to the
health and well being of mankind
than any thing else in the world. It
has even added a cubit to the height
of men.

I have been seeing our great county
with new eyes of late years. In
tracing the cause of this awakening,
I believe that it is due to the fact
that I learned to drive a rattling
good road, and I had an aversion to
drive to a distant place and back
again without an objective, so I be-
gan to study the history of the coun-
try as shown by the pieces of rocks.
From my earliest recollection I have
been an archaeologist, that is, one
who studies the art and customs of
an ancient people by their monuments
and relics, or in other words, a great
hunter and collector of Indian arrow
heads and the like.

But historical geology has arch-
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tracing the cause of this awakening,
I believe that it is due to the fact
that I learned to drive a rattling
good road, and I had an aversion to
drive to a distant place and back
again without an objective, so I be-
gan to study the history of the coun-
try as shown by the pieces of rocks.
From my earliest recollection I have
been an archaeologist, that is, one
who studies the art and customs of
an ancient people by their monuments
and relics, or in other words, a great
hunter and collector of Indian arrow
heads and the like.

But historical geology has arch-
aeology beaten. Along came a mem-
ber of the West Virginia Geological
Survey and gave me the key, and
thereby placed me under lasting
obligations to him. Geology, a science
so beneficial to one's country, and so
honorable to oneself.

Hence this series of articles. My
regret is that I do not have the keen
eyesight of thirty years ago. The
other day I was peering at the stones
along the roadside when an aged
farmer came riding by on the un-
usual horse. He said: "What are
you doing? Hunting a rock to hit
yourself with?" I had no reply
ready for him, but afterwards it
came to me and that was that I
ought to have a rock to hit myself
with because I had not taken to rocks
years ago.

There is no doubt about it.

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There is no doubt that grass will grow in every part of the country once the trees are conquered and the sun allowed to shine upon the ground. And we are inclined to think that because the Big Lime is all on the west side of the river that the west side is the favored side. But that does not account for the splendid farms and pastures on the east side of the river and my recent observation has shown me that the land on the east side of the river has its full complement of lime.

Years ago Wesley Mollohan, one of the wisest men I ever knew, said that the reason that the Big Lime stopped with the Greenbrier River was

been written no more, that most useless of writings as far as what has been done if the new methods by inference and imagination accomplish nothing.

Undoubtedly science which deals with such subjects as geology, "etc."

And I am prepared to say that it is due to the efforts of the next few years.

I am prepared to say that my reading and study of the subjects need a great deal of time, on the road, and a few weeks in the country equal to a month would open the eyes of a man that the Lord has given him.

My researches were a triumph. You may truth bring me to the point where I pronounced

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ought to have a rock to hit myself with because I had not taken to rocks years ago.

There is no doubt that grass will grow in every part of the county once the trees are conquered and the sun allowed to shine upon the ground. And we are inclined to think that because the Big Lime is all on the west side of the river that the west side is the favored side. But that does not account for the splendid farms and pastures on the east side of the river and my recent observation has shown me that the land on the east side of the river has its full complement of lime

Years ago Wesley Mollohan, one of the wisest men I ever knew, said that the reason that the Big Lime stopped with Greenbrier River was that it had weathered away over all of that territory to the east, and it is plain to be seen that if it is five hundred feet thick to the west that it must have been well out over the top of the Allegheny before it narrowed in shoal water. And in addition to that the Silurian limestone

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to well spread out over the east side of the mountains. I have not been able to make any thing like a careful search of the country, but I find sea shells all the way down the slope of the Alleghany, and where there is a mark of the sea shell, there is a rock that has sand lime in it. It is the lime that preserves the traces of ancient life. I have found shell beds in every place where I have looked well. On Stove Hill near the crest of the mountain, at a run that comes in above the White place, at Mineral Springs at Huntersville, at a place just below J. R. Burdett's house, at the mouth of a run at the Lake place, and at the mouth of Snow Creek. That just about takes up the fifteen miles of slope land between the toe of the mountain and the Catawba River.

This is limestone, calcareous shale, and carbonaceous sandstone and makes good lime. This, and what have been written on the subject by Prof. H. C. Hunt and others, will give you some idea of what may be found.

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Stony Creek. That just about takes up the fifteen miles of sloping land between the top of the mountain and the Greenbrier River.

There is limestone, calcareous shale, and calcareous sandstone and it all makes good land. This chert that they have been putting on the highway is rich in lime and means good land where ever found.

I do not know of any better way to see a cross section of Pocahontas county than to travel from the Rider Gap by way of Huntersville and Marlinton and Edray and Linwood to the Randolph county line. In that ride of about forty miles you could see Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous formations, probably the most diversified array of interesting rock to be found upon the surface of the earth.

I remember my first experience with judging fossils. I was coming through on the train and got down at Clifton Forge to stretch my legs while the engines were changed. A colored man approached me with a bit of rough stone on which there was a lizard about six inches long and said he would sell it for fifty cents. The question was whether I was a fool or a bit of carving, and the answer was a fool.

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through on the train and got down at Clifton Forge to stretch my legs while the engines were changed. A colored man approached me with a bit of rough stone on which there was a lizard about six inches long and said he would sell it for fifty cents. The question was whether it was a fossil or a bit of carving, and the symposium in the smoking room were divided on the subject. I was very well contented with my bargain, for I thought that if it was a fossil it was well worth the money for my collection, and if it was a carving it was still more wonderful as a work of art. That was more than twenty years ago. I know now that it was carved but I have not regretted it.

Longer ago than that a man brought me a fossil shark's tooth that he had found in the earth near Stony Bottom, and I gave fifty cents for that and I have carried it ever since. I had no trouble identifying it as that of a prehistoric shark, but it now appears that while this is a real fossil that it must have been carried here, for this part of the country is very ancient as the ages in the world go and that it was raised up out of the water of the great ocean long before there were any

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brought me a fossil shark's tooth that he had found in the earth near Stony Bottom, and I gave fifty cents for that and I have carried it ever since. I had no trouble identifying it as that of a prehistoric shark, but it now appears that while this is a real fossil that it must have been carried here, for this part of the country is very ancient as the ages in the world go and that it was raised up out of the waters of the great deep long before there were any sharks with teeth like that. They belong to places like Florida which are comparatively recent compared to this the oldest part of the American continent.

The only kind of sharks that ever swam in these waters were the kind that fed on shell fish and they did not have teeth. They had mouths fitted up like a stone crusher. They would go into a shell bed like a steam shovel and grind up a bushel of shell fish at each mouthful.

By next year there will be a large volume out on Pocahontas county by the West Virginia Geological Survey in which a complete study of the geological conditions here will be presented to the public. So I am taking some slight risk in presenting my information and conclusion. In ad-

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By next year there will be a large volume out on Pocahontas county by the West Virginia Geological Survey in which a complete study of the geological conditions here will be presented to the public. So I am taking some slight risk in presenting my opinions and conclusions in advance. But one of the first things that I learned in geology was that it was too big a game for any person to become perfect in, and that it is of all sciences the least exact. In fact it seems to me that if a geologist were to accept as facts all that had been written on the subject, and do no more, that he would be about the most useless of men. It seems to me that while it is right to accept the writings as facts, that they represent what has been discovered, and that if the new man cannot add to these facts by insight, work, observation, and imagination that he will accomplish nothing.

Undoubtedly there has been no science which has changed so utterly

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Undoubtedly there has been no science which has changed so utterly as geology, within so short a time. And I am pretty well convinced that it is due to change still more in the next few years.

I am pretty well convinced from my reading that most of the geologists need a trip to Pocahontas county, on the roof of the world, and that a few weeks spent here would be equal to a liberal education and would open their eyes to the wonders that the Lord hath made.

My research has brought one petty triumph. Years ago a seeker after truth brought me stone beads which I pronounced to be Indian beads, and

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a man at the Smithsonian would not have it so, and declared that they were crinid stems, or stone lillies. And so the matter rested until I saw in a book the other day by such a great geologist that ordinary geologists become stratified at the mere mention of his name, that the Seneca Indians used crinid stems for beads. I was right in the first instance for these were crinid stems cut into little sections with a hole through the center.

Notice to Tax-Payers

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Sheriff of Pocahontas County will attend in person or by deputy at the following time and place for the purpose of collecting taxes: